

**SUZUKI CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Via Zoom

Thursday May 14, 2020

6:00 P.M.

Present: Treena Gish, Frank Doruiter, Jen Garrison, Nicole Palmer, James Garrison, Ehsanul Haque, Tara Beland and Eric Taub.

Administration: Lynne Paradis and Heather Christison

Public: John van Velzen

1. Call to order at 6:03 p.m. by Chair Palmer.

2. Approval of agenda.

Motion 20:30: Moved by Ehsanul Haque that the Board approve the agenda with the addition of Relaunch Strategies.

APPROVED

3. Approval of the minutes from the April 16, 2020 Board meeting.

Motion 20:31: Moved by Jen Garrison that the Board approve the minutes from the April 16, 2020 Board meeting as circulated.

APPROVED

4. Reports

- Board Chair. Chair Palmer reported on the following items;
 - Letter to the Minister of Education. In light of the budget released which has Charter schools being funded lower than other public jurisdictions for special needs funding a letter has been sent to the Education minister by the board chair on behalf of Suzuki charter school. A letter has also by TAAPCS to the Education minister regarding the same topic.
 - Postpone staff appreciation celebration. Due to the continued restrictions regarding COVID-19 we are postponing the staff appreciation celebration. Hopefully we will be able to resume our annual celebration in the 2020/2021 year and give out awards for the 2019/2020 year then. Board Chair will put together a thank you letter that will be sent to all staff thanking them for all their great work in this school year.
 - Due to the all the items that have arisen we have decided to forego the book study please feel free to read the remainder of the book at your leisure.

- Superintendent, Instructional program going well with about 70% of SCS students participating in the online learning. School calendar may need to be adjusted to allow for staff to complete assessment, return of school materials and preparation for fall start up. Superintendent Paradis is recommending online learning to conclude on June 19, 2020.
- Secretary Treasurer – see attached

Motion 20:32: Moved by Treena Gish the Board accepts the Board Chair, Superintendent, Secretary Treasurer reports as presented.

APPROVED

5. Educational Research Project.

Superintendent Paradis provided an update on the research project. April 2020 newsletter is attached. The current economic situation is not positive for research funding. The SCSS research project will be completed in the 2020-2021 school year. However, any future extension of the project does not look optimistic.

6. The Association of Alberta Public Charter School (TAAPCS).

The Spring meeting of TAAPCS was held on May 2, 2020 via Zoom. Chair Palmer and Vice Chair Gish, Dr. Paradis and Heather Christison all attended the meeting. Vice Chair, Treena Gish provided the board with a summary of the meeting which included;

- SCSS spoke up about the budget,
- AGM is still be planned in October in Calgary,
- Priority Committee to include the former bylaws committee, Halvar Johnson Award and communications.

Each charter school has been encouraged to provide a representative to sit on the Priority Committee. Chair Palmer asked the board directors to consider putting their name forward to be the SCSS rep for TAAPCS' Priority Committee.

7. Junior High Programming.

The board discussed the current student numbers, currently at 17 students, and the implementation plans.

8. Relaunch of Schools. Alberta Education has circulated several documents which are currently under consideration to provide stakeholders the opportunity to share opinions and concerns that may influence various stages of the relaunch plan. The documents have been discussed with the School Admin and have been populated with answers to the where responses have been requested. Superintendent Paradis shared the documents with the Board for their input. The board provided some additional responses which will be included in document which will be submitted to Alberta Education as requested.



9. Draft Budget 2020 - 2021 – attached.

The finance committee Chair, Frank Doruiter presented a 2020-2021 budget for the board's consideration.

Motion 20:33: Moved by James Garrison that the board approved rental rate from \$6.00/ to \$6.50 per effective September 1, 2020.

APPROVED

Motion 20:34 Moved by Eric Taub introduction of a before school care fee at a rate of \$25.00/day effective September 1, 2020.

APPROVED

Motion 20:35 Moved by Tara Beland that the Afterschool Care Fee be increased from the current amount of \$220.00/month per student to \$290.00 per month per student effective September 1, 2020.

APPROVED

Motion 20:36 Moved by Treena Gish that an admin fee of 5% will be held back from the Alberta Education transportation grant received on behalf of parents, to administer the parent provided transportation agreement effective September 1, 2020.

APPROVED

Motion 20:37 Moved by Jen Garrison that the Board approve an expenditure budget of \$3,703, 859.00 for the 2020 -2021 school year.

APPROVED

10. Board Work Plan – see attached.

11. Correspondence – see attached.

12. In camera. Board Chair Palmer thanked John van Velzen for attending the meeting. The board informed Mr. van Velzen that they needed to end the public portion of the meeting at which time, Mr. van Velzen left the meeting.

Motion: 20:38 Moved by Frank Doruiter to move in camera.

APPROVED Time 10:10 p.m.


Motion: 20:39 Moved by Treena Gish that the Board move back into the public meeting.

APPROVED Time: 10:24 p.m.

13. Adjournment – 10:25 pm



Approved June 25, 2020

Signature of Chair, Nicole Palmer  _____

Signature of Secretary Treasurer, Heather Christison  _____

Suzuki Charter School

June 23, 2020

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Dear Valued Suzuki Charter School Staff,

Even though we are not able to meet as a group this year to celebrate your achievements and hard work, I wanted to write you a letter to convey the Board's gratitude and admiration for your hard work and dedication.

This year has been one for the memory books, hasn't it?! We could not have predicted when the school year started in September where we would end up in June. I can only assume you are exhausted, worried, missing colleagues, missing students, wondering what the future is going to bring and feeling ready for a bit of a summer break. I hope amongst all those feelings you include feelings of self-accomplishment and satisfaction. We, as a Board, are extremely proud of your accomplishments and we could not ask for a better staff. I really want to commend you all for being flexible and ready to rise to the challenges that this year has placed upon us.

I have four kids in four different schools and I feel that I can speak with a little authority on the differences in virtual programs across the city. The way Suzuki staff came together to implement all the government mandates was remarkable and could only be accomplished by each staff member working in their respective fields to the best of their ability.

As a board this year we studied the book "Trust" written by David Johnston, the 28th Governor General of Canada. There is a part that I would like to refer to that is about the battle of Vimy Ridge. Vimy Ridge holds a special significance in the history of Canada and in the minds of Canadians but I learned something about it that I didn't know before reading this book and it speaks directly to why the battle of Vimy Ridge was successful. At this time, it was customary that the General was the only one who knew the plan and goal of each battle, soldiers followed orders and were most often conscripted. In the battle of Vimy Ridge the soldiers were all volunteers and most of them farm boys who were not accustomed to following orders. The General in this particular battle broke custom, against the advice of his peers, and entrusted each soldier with a map of the battlefield, the details of the plan and the goal. Every single one of them. Because everyone knew the plan and the goal, they were able to work together and step up when needed. Successful teams are trusted to fully consider, improve, and execute ideas and proposals.

The Suzuki team has certainly come together, each one, to successfully implement the plan and achieve the common goals. I have never had to worry about my Suzuki child, everything was well-organized and his programming almost seemed like it was planned over a long period of time instead of what I know it actually was – Suzuki staff working together for a common

learning & growth

goal in all facets of the school, with a love and passion for their craft, venturing into uncharted territory, rolling up their sleeves, and putting in a lot of talent and hard work.

Not only were the children's music, academic, and physical needs taken care of but their mental well-being was very much considered as well. The children were worried, missing their friends, and some were having a hard time with virtual learning. I saw real love and compassion from the staff at Suzuki school. Our kids were cared for in the best way possible and you should all give yourselves a real pat on the back for a job well-done.

Please enjoy some much-deserved time off and, fingers-crossed, we will be able to see each other in-person in the fall.

Thank you so much again,



Nicole Palmer, Chair
Suzuki Charter School Board

P.S. you should know that, as I wrote this, I shed a few tears. It seems written or spoken, I can't get through a tribute to you amazing individuals without tears of gratitude.